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SUBJECT: REGIONAL CONGRESS OF THE PSI, PALERMO JANUARY 30 -
FEBRUARY 1, 1976

REF: PALERMO 0761

1. SUMMARY: SICILY'S PSI WILL SEND 80 DELEGATES TO THE FORTHCOMING NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS. THE CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE SET FORTH THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF THE SOCIALISTS IN SICILY: A PSI-PCI GOVERNMENT ALLIANCE AGAINST THE DC, WHICH SHOULD BE RELEGATED TO THE OPPOSITION. END OF SUMMARY.

2. SICILIAN PSI DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS: ON FEBRUARY 1, THE SICILIAN PSI - CONCLUDING A THREE-DAY-LONG REGIONAL CONGRESS - ELECTED IN PALERMO ITS DELEGATES, A TOTAL OF 80, TO THE FORTHCOMING NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS. EACH DELEGATE WILL REPRESENT 738 CONGRESSIONAL VOTES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF EX-MINISTER SALVATORE LAURICELLA (OFFICIAL LEADER OF THE DEMARTINIANI IN SICILY), WHO WILL REPRESENT 780 VOTES. HERE FOLLOWS THE DISTRIBUTION OF SICILIAN DELEGATES BY FACTION:

DE MARTINO FACTION 47 DELEGATES

MANCINI FACTION 14 DELEGATES

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LOMBARDI FACTION 10 DELEGATES

AUTONOMISTI (NENNI) FACTION 6 DELEGATES
BERTOLDI FACTION 2 DELEGATES
MARIANI FACTION 1 DELEGATE

3. LEFTIST ALTERNATIVE : SICILY'S SOCIALISTS DECREED THE CENTER-LEFT FORMULA DEFUNCT. PSI REGIONAL SECRETARY NICOLA CAPRIA CONSIDERED THE LEGISLATIVE PACT (REFTEL) IN OPERATION AT THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY SINCE NOVEMBER 20, 1975 AS A TRANSITORY STEP TO THE LEFTIST ALTERNATIVE BY THE PSI AND PCI ALLIED IN A GOVERNMENT MAJORITY AGAINST THE DC. ACCORDING TO CAPRIA, THE REGION'S LEGISLATIVE PACT SHOULD LAST UNTIL THE PSI AND THE PCI MUSTER A SELF-SUFFICIENT PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY. BUT, THE PSI AGREES WITH THE COMMUNISTS THAT A SELF-SUFFICIENT MAJORITY MIGHT GO WELL BEYOND THE 51-PERCENT MARK.

4. THE PSI VS. THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE: THE SICILIAN PSI EXPRESSED UNANIMOUS DISLIKE FOR THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE. A PCI-DC-PSI COALITION WOULD END UP IN A GRAND REGIME HOSTILE TO INTERNAL DISSENT AND INCAPABLE OF REALIZING SIGNIFICANT REFORMS BECAUSE THE DC IS AND WILL REMAIN A PARTY WHICH REPRESENTS CONSERVATIVE INTERESTS.

5. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PSI IS WORRIED OVER THE PCI'S LENINIST BIAS TOWARD PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AND IS CONVINCED THAT THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS STILL HESITATE TO SEVER THEIR TIES WITH THE USSR. HOWEVER, AS ENRICO MANCA STATED IN REPRESENTATION FOR THE NATIONAL DIRECTORATE, THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A SOCIALIST BRAND OF ANTI-COMMUNISM. THE TWO PARTIES BASICALLY AIM AT THE SAME GOALS, ONLY THAT THEY EMPLOY DIFFERENT STRATEGIES: LEFTIST ALTERNATIVE INSTEAD OF HISTORIC COMPROMISE.

6. COMMENT: THAT THE DEMARTINIANI CLEARLY SCORED AN IMPORTANT SUCCESS IN SICILY WAS NOT A SURPRISE, BECAUSE SICILY HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN DEMARTINIANO STRONGHOLD. WHAT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE IS THE RISE OF THE MINORITY FACTIONS, WHICH CAN TO SOME EXTENT BE ATTRIBUTED TO A GROWING LACK OF COHESION WITHIN THE DEMARTINIANO FACTION.
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